

## How to use multiple screens on lightweight desktops: Arandr and Xrandr

There are two ways to actually do this. First, is to use a program called arandr which automates the creation of screen profiles and makes setuping dual screens easy.

Below you can see few examples of the profiles that arandr creates:

Lines beginning with # are comments.

#Dvi right, HDMI left:

```
xrandr --output DVI-I-1 --mode 1680x1050 --pos 1720x0 --rotate normal --output HDMI-1 --mode 1680x1050 --pos 0x0 --rotate normal
```

#Dvi left, HDMI right:

```
xrandr --output DVI-I-1 --mode 1680x1050 --pos 0x0 --rotate normal --output HDMI-1 --mode 1680x1050 --pos 1680x0 --rotate normal
```

When you are using arandr you should save your custom profile so you do not need to create your preset again everytime arandr closes. As arandr saves things as script files you can also easily copy and paste any screen presets to your .xinitrc autostart file or any other if so desired.

## Using Xrandr

When arandr is not around to make things easier then you are more than likely facing the situation where you need to create your screen layouts directly with xrandr tool.

Luckily, the previous is not hard since the xrandr command syntax follows the following simple structure:

```
xrandr --first-screen-name --mode --rotation --second-screen-name --mode --rotation --where-to place-the-second-screen
```

As an example here is a layout, which places the screen identified as a DVI-I-1 right from a HDMI-1 display:

```
xrandr --output DVI-I-1 --auto --rotate normal --output HDMI-1 --auto --rotate normal --right-of DVI-I-1
```

You could also replace the value **--right-of** with something like **--left-of** or **--above**. Consult xrandr's manual pages (man xrandr) for more information.

I do recommend keeping the mode settings as auto since this does usually lead to desired results. Also, if you do not have any reasons to change the rotations of the screens

then keep the value fields normal.

Tip. If you are uncertain about your screen names or modes that they can use type **xrandr q** inside a terminal client and you will be greeted with the needed verbose feedbacks.